In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 27, 33, 34, 43, 51, 62 and 66, and please cancel claims 7, 32 and 48, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for communicating in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

a client accessing an authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use a first service;

determining client capabilities for said client, wherein said client capabilities are capabilities of said first service that said client is permitted to use;

binding said client capabilities to said authentication credential;

said client sending a first message to said first service, wherein said first message includes said authentication credential;

said first service using said authentication service to authenticate said authentication credential received in said first message; and

said first service responding to said first message if said authentication credential in said first message is determined to be authentic as from said client.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising said client obtaining an address for said authentication service from an advertisement for said first service, wherein said accessing an authentication service comprises said client sending a message to said address for said authentication service requesting said authentication credential to use said advertised first service.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said advertisement for said first service includes a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein said first message corresponds to a message defined in said data representation language schema.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising said client sending additional messages to said first service to use said first service, wherein said authentication credential is included with each one of said additional messages, and wherein each one of said additional messages is defined by said data representation language schema.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim ~~7~~ 1, further comprising:

said client sending a request message to said first service to access a capability of said first service, wherein said request message includes said authentication credential;

said first service determining that the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities; and

said first service fulfilling said request message only if the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities.

9. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim ~~7~~1, wherein said determining client capabilities comprises said client accessing an access policy service to obtain a capability token indicating which capabilities of said first service said client is permitted to access.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein said authentication service and said access policy service are combined as a single service and wherein said capability token is included within said authentication credential.

11. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim ~~7~~1, wherein said determining client capabilities is performed by said first service.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising said client generating a message gate for accessing said first service, wherein said message gate sends request messages from said client to said first service to access said first service, and wherein said message gate includes said authentication credential in each message to said first service.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising said client obtaining a service advertisement for said first service before accessing said first service, wherein said service advertisement comprises an address for said authentication service and an address for said first service.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein said service advertisement further comprises a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service, wherein said message gate verifies that each message sent from said client to said first service complies with said data representation language schema.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said authentication service is a separately addressable service from said first service.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said client accessing an authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use a first service comprises said authentication service returning said authentication credential to said client only if said client is authorized to access said first service.

17. (Original) A method for communication in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

a client obtaining a service advertisement for a first service, wherein said service advertisement includes an address for an authentication service;

said client sending a request message to said authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use said first service;

said client generating a message gate for accessing said first service, wherein said message gate embeds said authentication credential in every message from said client to said first service; and

said client accessing said first service through said message gate.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein said service advertisement further comprises a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service, the method further comprising said message gate verifying that every message sent from said client to said first service complies with said data representation language schema.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema and said messages from said client to said first service are XML messages.

20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising said first service using said authentication service to determine if said authentication credential received in a first message from said client is authentic.

21. (Original) The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising, after authenticating said authentication credential received in said first message from said client, said first service determining which capabilities of said first service said client is authorized to use, wherein said first service responds to a request message from said client only if said request message is for an authorized capability for said client.

22. (Original) The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising said first service binding a determination of which capabilities of said first service said client is authorized to use to said authentication credential so that said first service does not need to repeat said determining which capabilities of said first service said client is authorized to use.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising said first service noting whether or not said authentication credential is authentic so that said first service does not need to repeat said using said authentication service to determine if said authentication credential received in a first message from said client is authentic.

24. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein said service advertisement for said first service further includes an address for accessing said first service, wherein said authentication service and said first service are separate services within the distributed computing environment.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein said service advertisement further includes a service identifier token for said first service, wherein said client sending a request message to said authentication service to obtain an authentication credential comprises sending said service identifier token and a client identifier token to said authentication service.

26. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said authentication service generates said authentication credential from said client identifier token and said service identifier token.

27. (Currently amended) A client device configured to:

access an authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use a first service;

determine client capabilities for said client device, wherein said client capabilities are capabilities of said first service that said client device is permitted to use; and

bind said client capabilities to said authentication credential;

send a first message to said first service, wherein said first message includes said authentication credential, wherein said first service is configured to use said authentication service to authenticate said authentication credential received in said first message; and

receive a response to said first message from said first service if said authentication credential in said first message is determined to be authentic as from said client device.

28. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27, further configured to:

obtain an address for said authentication service from an advertisement for said first service;

wherein, in said accessing an authentication service, the client device is further configured to:

send a message to said address for said authentication service requesting said authentication credential to use said advertised first service.

29. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 28, wherein said advertisement for said first service includes a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service, and wherein said first message corresponds to a message defined in said data representation language schema.

30. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 29, further configured to send additional messages to said first service to use said first service, wherein said authentication credential is included with each one of said additional messages, and wherein each one of said additional messages is defined by said data representation language schema.

31. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 29, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The client device as recited in claim ~~32~~27, further configured to:

send a request message to said first service to access a capability of said first service, wherein said request message includes said authentication credential;

wherein said first service is configured to fulfill said request message only if said first service determines that the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities.

34. (Currently amended) The client device as recited in claim ~~32~~27, wherein, in said determining client capabilities, the client device is further configured to access an access policy service to obtain a capability token indicating which capabilities of said first service said client is permitted to access.

35. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 34, wherein said authentication service and said access policy service are combined as a single service, and wherein said capability token is included within said authentication credential.

36. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27, further configured to generate a message gate for accessing said first service, wherein said message gate sends request messages from said client to said first service to access said first service, and wherein said message gate includes said authentication credential in each message to said first service.

37. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 36, further configured to:

obtain a service advertisement for said first service before accessing said first service, wherein said service advertisement comprises a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service;

wherein said message gate is configured to verify that each message sent from said client device to said first service complies with said data representation language schema.

38. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27, wherein, in said accessing an authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use a first service, the client device is further configured to receive from said authentication service said authentication credential only if said client device is authorized to access said first service.

39. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27, wherein said authentication service and said first service are configured to execute within a service device, and wherein said client device is further configured to couple to said service device via a network.

40. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27, wherein said client device is further configured to couple to a network via a wireless connection.

41. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27,

wherein said authentication service is configured to execute within an authentication server;

wherein said first service is configured to execute within a service device; and

wherein said client device, said service device, and said authentication server are separate devices comprised in a distributed computing environment.

42. (Original) The client device as recited in claim 27, wherein said first service is configured to execute within said client device.

43. (Currently amended) A service device configured to:

receive from a client a first message including an authentication credential, wherein said client accesses an authentication service to obtain said authentication credential to use said service device;

use said authentication service to authenticate said authentication credential received in said first message; ~~and~~

determine client capabilities for said client, wherein said client capabilities are capabilities of said service device that said client is permitted to use;

bind said client capabilities to said authentication credential; and

respond to said first message if said authentication credential in said first message is determined to be authentic as from said client.

44. (Original) The service device as recited in claim 43, further configured to provide to said client an advertisement for said service device, wherein said advertisement includes a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said service device.

45. (Original) The service device as recited in claim 44, wherein said first message corresponds to a message defined in said data representation language schema.

46. (Original) The service device as recited in claim 45, further configured to receive additional messages from said client to use said service device, wherein said authentication credential is included with each one of said additional messages, and wherein each one of said additional messages is defined by said data representation language schema.

47. (Original) The service device as recited in claim 44, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Original) The service device as recited in claim 43, further configured to:

receive from said client a request message to access a capability of said service device, wherein said request message includes said authentication credential;

determine that the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities; and

fulfill said request message only if the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities.

50. (Original) The service device as recited in claim 43, wherein said client is configured to execute within a client device, and wherein said service device and said client device are separate devices comprised in a distributed computing environment.

51. (Currently amended) A distributed computing system, comprising:

a client device; and

a service device;

wherein said client device is configured to:

access an authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use said service device; and

determine client capabilities for said client device, wherein said client capabilities are capabilities of said service device that said client device is permitted to use; and

bind said client capabilities to said authentication credential;

send a first message to said service device, wherein said first message includes said authentication credential; and

wherein said service device is configured to:

use said authentication service to authenticate said authentication credential received in said first message; and

respond to said first message if said authentication credential in said first message is determined to be authentic as from said client.

52. (Original) The system as recited in claim 51,

wherein the service device is further configured to provide to said client device an advertisement for said service device, wherein said advertisement includes a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said service device;

wherein the client device is further configured to obtain an address for said authentication service from said advertisement for said service device; and

wherein, in said accessing an authentication service, the client device is further configured to send a message to said address for said authentication service requesting said authentication credential to use said advertised service device.

53. (Original) The system as recited in claim 52, wherein said advertisement for said service device includes a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said service device, wherein said first message corresponds to a message defined in said data representation language schema.

54. (Original) The system as recited in claim 53, wherein the client device is further configured to send additional messages to said service device to use said service device, wherein said authentication credential is included with each one of said additional messages, and wherein each one of said additional messages is defined by said data representation language schema.

55. (Original) The system as recited in claim 53, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema.

56. (Original) The system as recited in claim 51, wherein said authentication service is configured to execute within said service device.

57. (Original) The system as recited in claim 51,

wherein said authentication service is configured to execute within an authentication server; and

wherein said client device, said service device, and said authentication server are separate devices comprised in a distributed computing environment.

58. (Original) A distributed computing system, comprising:

a client device;

a service device;

wherein said client device is configured to:

obtain a service advertisement for said service device, wherein said service advertisement includes an address for an authentication service;

send a request message to said authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use said service device;

generate a message gate for accessing said service device, wherein said message gate is configured to embed said authentication credential in every message from said client device to said service device; and

access said service device through said message gate;

59. (Original) The system as recited in claim 58,

wherein said service advertisement further comprises a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said service device; and

wherein said message gate is further configured to verify that every message sent from said client device to said service device complies with said data representation language schema.

60. (Original) The system as recited in claim 59, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema and said messages from said client device to said service device are XML messages.

61. (Original) The system as recited in claim 58, wherein said service device is configured to:

use said authentication service to determine if said authentication credential received in a first message from said client device is authentic;

determine which capabilities of said service device said client device is authorized to use; and

respond to said first message from said client device only if said first message is for an authorized capability for said client device.

62. (Currently amended) A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

a client accessing an authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use a first service;

determining client capabilities for said client, wherein said client capabilities are capabilities of said first service that said client is permitted to use;

binding said client capabilities to said authentication credential;

said client sending a first message to said first service, wherein said first message includes said authentication credential;

said first service using said authentication service to authenticate said authentication credential received in said first message; and

said first service responding to said first message if said authentication credential in said first message is determined to be authentic as from said client.

63. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 62, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

said client obtaining an address for said authentication service from an advertisement for said first service;

wherein, in said accessing an authentication service, the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

said client sending a message to said address for said authentication service requesting said authentication credential to use said advertised first service.

64. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 63, wherein said advertisement for said first service includes a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service, wherein said first message corresponds to a message defined in said data representation language schema.

65. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 64, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema.

66. (Currently amended) The carrier medium as recited in claim 62, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

~~determining client capabilities for said client, wherein said client capabilities are capabilities of said first service that said client is permitted to use; and~~

~~binding said client capabilities to said authentication token;~~

said client sending a request message to said first service to access a capability of said first service, wherein said request message includes said authentication credential;

said first service determining that the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities; and

said first service fulfilling said request message only if the capability requested in said request message is within said client capabilities.

67. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 62, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

said client generating a message gate for accessing said first service;

said message gate sending request messages from said client to said first service to access said first service, wherein said message gate includes said authentication credential in each message to said first service.

68. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 67, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

said message gate verifying that each message sent from said client to said first service complies with a data representation language schema, wherein said data representation language schema defines a message interface for accessing said first service

69. (Original) A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

a client obtaining a service advertisement for a first service, wherein said service advertisement includes an address for an authentication service;

said client sending a request message to said authentication service to obtain an authentication credential to use said first service;

said client generating a message gate for accessing said first service, wherein said message gate embeds said authentication credential in every message from said client to said first service; and

said client accessing said first service through said message gate.

70. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 69, wherein said service advertisement further comprises a data representation language schema defining a message interface for accessing said first service, and wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

said message gate verifying that every message sent from said client to said first service complies with said data representation language schema.

71. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 70, wherein said data representation language schema is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema and said messages from said client to said first service are XML messages.

72. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 69, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

said first service using said authentication service to determine if said authentication credential received in a first message from said client is authentic;

said first service determining which capabilities of said first service said client is authorized to use; and

said first service responding to said first message from said client only if said first message is for an authorized capability for said client.